

# INVESTIGATORS SUMMARY

**INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY**
**USE OF FORCE**
**TYPE: DEPUTY INVOLVED SHOOTING-NON-HIT**
**I.A.B. FILE NUMBER: SH 2124335**
**URN: 404-14014-1133-057**

On Saturday, July 24, 2004, Sergeants Richard Smith and John Harris, along with Lieutenant Stacy Lee of the Internal Affairs Bureau responded to Foxton Ave. and Avenue J, Lancaster, regarding a Deputy Involved Shooting involving Lancaster Station personnel.

The summary of this incident is based on information obtained from interviews of the involved employees and witnesses, whose statements are contained in the Lancaster Detective Bureau case package as well as physical evidence collected at the scene by Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Crime Lab personnel **(refer Exhibit A &B)**.

**INVOLVED PERSONNEL:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Deputy Steven Lehrman #[redacted] | MW/44 | 6'02"/215lbs |

**EMPLOYEE WORK HISTORY**

| | |
|---|---|
| Date of Employment | 01-24-89 |
| Date Assigned to Patrol | [redacted] |
| Date Completed Patrol Training | [redacted] |
| Date Assigned to Unit | [redacted] |
| Prior Founded Force Incidents | [redacted] |



**SUSPECT**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| [redacted], BK#[redacted] | FB/15 | 5'11"/140lbs |

[redacted]

**WITNESSES**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Deputy Jorge Lopez, #[redacted] | Lancaster Station | (661)948-8466 |
| [redacted], FB/16 | [redacted] | [redacted] |

## INJURIES

Deputy Steven Lehrman had an approximate two inch contusion on his right calf and indicated he had slight pain in his left foot where the suspect vehicle had apparently rolled over it **(refer Exhibit J)**.

Suspect [redacted] was not injured in the incident.

## PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Two bullet holes were found in the left side rear door of the suspect vehicle, one bullet hole was found in the drivers side sun visor and one bullet hole was found slightly behind the passenger side front seat of the suspect vehicle **(refer Exhibit's G & H)**. Three .45 caliber shell casings were found outside radio car #SD2098.

## INVESTIGATOR OBSERVATIONS:

Deputy Lehrman's radio car, #SD2098 was wedged against bushes on the southeast corner of Avenue J and Foxton Ave **(refer Exhibit D)**. A bullet strike was noted on the inside of the drivers door of that radio car and the right rear passenger window was shattered **(refer Exhibit I)**. The suspect vehicle was located east fo Kirkland Ave. east of the incident location. Broken glass and plastic were noted on Avenue J near the radio car. Skid marks were seen on Avenue J behind the radio car.

## WEAPONS USED BY DEPUTY PERSONNEL:

Deputy Lehrman, Department authorized H & K USP .45 caliber pistol, SER# [redacted], fired six rounds of Department authorized 45 caliber rounds. Deputy Lehrman carries his weapon with one round in the chamber and twelve rounds in the magazine. At the conclusion of the incident his weaapon had one round in the chamber and six rounds in the magazine.

## WEAPONS USED BY SUSPECT

Suspect [redacted] drove a 1998 GMC van into Deputy Lehrman's radio car.

## PROPERTY DAMAGE:

The suspect's [redacted]', 1998 GMC van, received minor damage to the left front corner when Suspect [redacted] drove the vehicle into the Sheriff's Department radio car, vehicle #SD2098.

- Sheriff's Department vehicle #SD2098 received minor damage to the left front and left side when Suspect [redacted] drove into and down the left side of the vehicle **(refer Exhibit E).**

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR AND CHARGES FILED:**

Detective Kevin Turrill, #[redacted], Lancaster Detective Bureau

Two counts of 245(c) P.C., Assault With A Deadly Weapon. Suspect [redacted] pled guilty. Sentencing is scheduled for September 30, 2004.

**LIGHTING OR WEATHER CONDITIONS:**

This incident occurred during day light hours in bright sunshine. The weather was clear.

**INVOLVED EMPLOYEES STATEMENTS:**

**Deputy Steven Lehrman, #[redacted]**

Deputy Lehrman said that on the day of the incident, he was assigned to Unit 111H working the city of Lancaster with his partner Deputy Jorge Lopez. He was the driver and Deputy Lopez was the bookman. He was wearing a Sheriff's Department Class B uniform with nylon Sam Brown gun belt.

At approximately 1200 hours he heard a pursuit of a white 1998 GMC van, driven by a female black, broadcast over Sheriff's radio. They responded, code 3 to the area of the pursuit; however, the pursuit was cancelled prior to them reaching it. The radio broadcast indicated the pursued vehicle was last seen westbound Avenue I from Division St. and they saw the suspect vehicle westbound on Avenue I and out of sight. At this time they made a u-turn and drove southbound on Division St. As Deputy Lehrman drove southbound on Division St., he saw a vehicle matching the description of the pursued vehicle drive eastbound Avenue J from Division St. Deputy Lehrman stopped at Avenue J while the traffic signal cycled. During this time he looked for the suspect vehicle, but was unable to see east on Avenue J. He turned left onto eastbound Avenue J and told Deputy Lopez to look south down the side streets that intersected the frontage road on the south side of Avenue J.

As they proceeded east on Avenue J, Deputy Lopez told him that he had seen a white van, matching the suspect vehicle description turn into a driveway on the east side of one of the side streets; however, Deputy Lopez did not know which street it was. He drove to the frontage road and proceeded westbound on the Avenue J frontage road, checking each side street for the suspect vehicle. He turned south on Kirkland Ave. and drove approximately 100 yards south looking for the van. He made a u-turn and went back to the frontage road. At this point he felt

that he may have gone too far to the west and that they had probably lost the vehicle. He discontinued his search for the suspect vehicle and made a westbound turn onto the frontage road, intending to exit the frontage road at 3rd St. East.

As he drove west and approached Foxton Ave., a white van, which he felt was the suspect vehicle, turned eastbound from Foxton Ave. onto the frontage road, directly in front of his radio car. The white van stopped in front of his radio car, offset to his left in a turning movement as he stopped his vehicle in the left center of the frontage road, approximately three or four feet from the van. Deputy Lehrman gestured to the female black driver of the van to stop, saying "We're done, just stop," as he drew his weapon and opened his door. The female appeared to comply. She put her hands on the steering wheel and then sat for approximately twenty seconds. Deputy Lerhman determined that she was complying and he and Deputy Lopez started to exit their vehicle to conduct an investigation and determine if the female was the suspect. After Deputy Lerhman put his left foot out of his vehicle and onto the roadway, the suspect began to back up rapidly, stopping after traveling five or ten feet. Deputy Lerhman felt that the suspect's actions indicated that she was going to drive around his vehicle and go eastbound on the frontage road, forcing him to make a u-turn, and giving herself time to escape. Instead, the suspect put the van in drive and drove directly at the radio car, ramming the left front corner of the radio car, as she attempted to get past the patrol car. There was approximately four feet of clearance between the patrol car and the south curb. Deputy Lerhman said when the suspect hit his vehicle, he thought that she would realize that she could not get past his vehicle, and she would reverse her direction to escape. Instead, she accelerated and scraped the left side of the radio car, pushing it sideways, and making a path to get past it **(refer Exhibit's E & F)**. Deputy Lerhman said he believed he put his vehicle in reverse and backed up a short distance and then braked when the suspect passed him.

As the suspect vehicle drove along the left side of Deputy Lehrman's patrol car and reached his open door, it pinned his leg between his door and the rocker panel of his vehicle. At this point Deputy Lerhman said he thought the suspect was, "crazy and trying to kill me." While seated in his radio car, Deputy Lerhman fired two or three shots at the suspect through his open window in order to get the suspect to stop the van. The suspect did not stop, but continued to scrap the side of the van past his open door, keeping Deputy Lerhman's leg pinned and running over his foot **(refer Exhibits E & J)**. As the suspect vehicle drove past him, Deputy Lerhman panned his weapon keeping it aimed in the direction of the suspect. The suspect stopped her vehicle in the middle of the street, after it had cleared the rear end of the radio car, by not more than five feet.

When the van stopped, Deputy Lerhman believed it was because he had hit the suspect with his gunfire. Deputy Lerhman saw the brake lights of the suspect vehicle illuminated. Then he saw the back up lights illuminate, and then the van began to back up, indicating to him that the suspect was going to try to, "finish me off." Having "panned" his weapon to follow the suspect vehicle, when he saw the back up lights illuminate Deputy Lerhman fired one round which went through the rear passenger window of his vehicle **(refer Exhibit I)**. He then leaned out the open door and fired two or three additional shots at the suspect vehicle. The suspect vehicle drove

forward approximately fifty feet eastbound, away from his vehicle. The suspect vehicle stopped and Deputy Lerhman again thought that he had hit the suspect. Thinking that he had placed his vehicle in Park, Deputy Lerhman exited the patrol car. It began to roll west on the frontage road stopping against the south curb of the frontage road, after rolling approximately twenty feet. Deputy Lerhman saw Suspect [redacted] exit the van, and then the van began to roll eastbound on the frontage road, stopping when it ran into the south curb of the frontage road. Suspect [redacted] was given commands to get on the ground. She initially complied, but then jumped up, yelling that the ground was hot. Deputy Lopez approached her and was able to take her into custody without further incident.

Deputy Lehrman said that the incident occurred very quickly, estimating the time span between the suspect vehicle striking his vehicle and his last shot as being approximately twenty seconds.

**WITNESSES STATEMENTS:**

**Deputy Jorge Lopez, #[redacted]**

Deputy Lopez said that he was assigned to Unit 111H working the city of Lancaster with his partner Deputy Steven Lehrman. At approximately 1200 hours he heard a pursuit of a white 1998 GMC van, driven by a female black, broadcast over Sheriff's radio. He and Deputy Lerhman responded to the area of the pursuit; however, the pursuit was cancelled prior to them joining it. The radio broadcast indicated the pursued vehicle was last seen westbound Avenue I from Division St. They saw the suspect vehicle drive westbound on Avenue I and out of sight. At this time they made a u-turn and drove southbound on Division St.

As they proceeded southbound Division St. Deputy Lopez saw a white van drive through a red light and turn eastbound on Avenue J. They proceeded eastbound on Avenue J, and Deputy Lopez began looking south on the side streets that intersected with a frontage road on Avenue J. As he looked south on one of the streets, he saw a white van with a female black driver turn into the driveway of a house on the east side of the street. He advised Deputy Lehrman of what he had seen, and they drove to the frontage road, driving westbound on it. As they drove slowly westbound Deputy Lopez looked down each street in an attempt to locate the white van and determine if it was the stolen vehicle from the pursuit.

As they approached Foxton Ave., a white van driven by a female black turned from northbound Foxton Ave. eastbound onto the frontage road directly in front of their radio car, stopping a few feet in front of it. When it appeared that the van was not going to move, as directed by Deputy Lehrman, Deputy Lopez said he and Deputy Lehrman began to exit the radio car with their weapons drawn in order to detain the suspect, while they conducted a Grand Theft Vehicle investigation. At this point the van began to back up. Deputy Lopez holstered his weapon, sat back down in the radio car and closed his door, believing that the suspect was either going to back up and turn westbound on the frontage road or make a u-turn and proceed southbound on Foxton Ave. The suspect vehicle; however, did neither. Instead, the suspect vehicle drove

toward the radio car, striking the front left corner of the radio car and continuing down the driver's side of the vehicle, scraping it as it did so.

At this point Deputy Lehrman still had his left leg outside the radio car and it appeared that he was going to be struck by the driver's door as the suspect vehicle scraped the radio car. As the suspect passed the drivers door, Deputy Lopez saw Deputy Lehrman fire two or three shots at the suspect. The suspect vehicle continued past the radio car and stopped just past the rear of the radio car. Believing that the suspect had been hit or was going to exit the vehicle and run, Deputy Lopez away from Deputy Lehrman, toward his passenger door and started to open it. He then heard two or three additional shots fired by Deputy Lehrman. He looked toward the suspect vehicle and saw that it was moving forward very slowly. The suspect vehicle stopped, and Deputy Lopez saw the suspect exit the driver's door. He ran to the suspect and took her into custody without further incident. As he was taking the suspect into custody, he saw the suspect vehicle roll slowly eastbound on the frontage road until it stopped against the south curb of the Avenue J frontage road.

Deputy Lopez said that the incident happened very quickly, estimating the time span between Deputy Lehrman's first shot and the last as being approximately fifteen to twenty seconds.

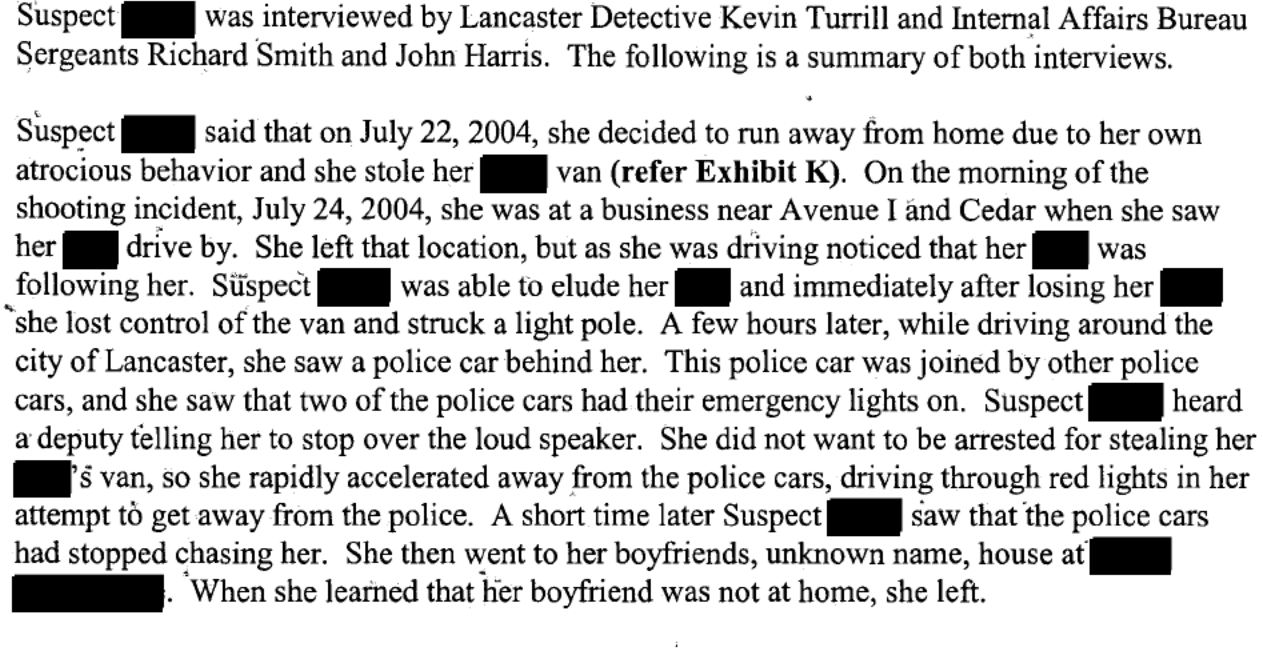
[redacted]

Witness [redacted] said that she walked out of her house and to the driveway when Suspect [redacted] drove into the driveway in a white van. Suspect [redacted] asked to speak to [redacted]'s brother. When [redacted] told Suspect [redacted] that her brother was not at the house, Suspect [redacted] asked her to go with her to look for him. At this point [redacted]'s [redacted], [redacted] told [redacted] that she could not leave the house because her baby was sleeping and she needed to stay with him. [redacted] told Suspect [redacted] that she had to stay and remained standing on the driveway as Suspect [redacted] left the location **(refer Exhibit D)**.

Witness [redacted] said Suspect [redacted] drove northbound on Foxton Ave. As Suspect [redacted] prepared to make a right turn to drive eastbound on the frontage road of Avenue J, she stopped facing a Sheriff's radio car that was stopped westbound on the frontage road. She continued to watch as Suspect [redacted] drove her vehicle into the radio car, striking it approximately five times in the front and side of the vehicle. As Suspect [redacted] drove down the side of the radio car, Witness Burton heard four gunshots. She said that the deputy was seated in the front seat of the radio car when he shot at Suspect [redacted] Suspect [redacted] continued past the radio car and stopped in the middle of the frontage road. She saw Suspect [redacted] exit the van and the deputies then approach her and take her into custody.

**SUSPECT STATEMENTS:**

[redacted]



Suspect [redacted] was interviewed by Lancaster Detective Kevin Turrill and Internal Affairs Bureau Sergeants Richard Smith and John Harris. The following is a summary of both interviews.

Suspect [redacted] said that on July 22, 2004, she decided to run away from home due to her own atrocious behavior and she stole her [redacted] van **(refer Exhibit K)**. On the morning of the shooting incident, July 24, 2004, she was at a business near Avenue I and Cedar when she saw her [redacted] drive by. She left that location, but as she was driving noticed that her [redacted] was following her. Suspect [redacted] was able to elude her [redacted] and immediately after losing her [redacted] she lost control of the van and struck a light pole. A few hours later, while driving around the city of Lancaster, she saw a police car behind her. This police car was joined by other police cars, and she saw that two of the police cars had their emergency lights on. Suspect [redacted] heard a deputy telling her to stop over the loud speaker. She did not want to be arrested for stealing her [redacted]'s van, so she rapidly accelerated away from the police cars, driving through red lights in her attempt to get away from the police. A short time later Suspect [redacted] saw that the police cars had stopped chasing her. She then went to her boyfriends, unknown name, house at [redacted]. When she learned that her boyfriend was not at home, she left.

As she approached the frontage road of Avenue J, northbound on Foxton Ave., she saw a police car stopped westbound on the frontage road in front of her and the driver had his hand raised, indicating that he wanted her to stop. She stopped and initially put her vehicle into reverse, intending to back up. She then decided to go forward. She put the vehicle into drive and began driving as fast as the vehicle would go toward the police car. She saw that the driver's door of the police car was open, and the driver was exiting the car. She did not want to be arrested, so she did not slow down. She struck the left front corner of the patrol car with the van and continued striking the police car down the drivers side. Suspect [redacted] estimated her speed at 10 to15 miles per hour when this occurred. She struck the driver's door (where Deputy Lehrman was standing,) but did not think she had struck the Deputy. Suspect [redacted] passed the deputy and then heard several gun shots. She immediately stopped the van and jumped out, neglecting to put the van into the "Park" position. The van rolled eastbound the frontage road as she was taken into custody by the deputies. She said that the deputies did not use any force when they handcuffed her.